four-lane highways is named as Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and is part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

(b) The estimated cost of the Golden Quadrilateral connecting 4 metros was Rs. 25055 crores and targeted for completion by December, 2004. We are now attempting substantial completion by December, 2003.

(c) Total length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is 5846 kms. Present status of GQ is as under:

4-laning completed	— 1159 kms
Under implementation	— 4551 kms
To be awarded	— 136 kms

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Steps taken to ensure timely completion are as under:

(i) the contracts for works provide for bonus for early completion and penalty for delays;

(ii) close monitoring of the projects by NHAI and Ministry;

(iii) speedy completion of pre-construction activities like land acquisition, tree cutting and shifting of utilities;

(iv) speedy-decision making;

(v) prompt payment to contractors; and

(vi) regular interaction jointly with consultants, builders and NHAI at Minister's level.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

322. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Road Project is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made on the project so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the States were found to have diverted the funds allotted for this project to some other purposes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is 5846 kms. The present status is as under:

4-laning completed	— 1159 kms
Under implementation	— 4551 kms
To be awarded	— 136 kms

(c) No funds are allotted to any State for execution of this project.

(d) Does not arise.

Road accidents due to inexperienced drivers

323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to careless driving by inexperienced drivers of motor and motorcycles, accidents are increasing througout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would make non-bailable offence law provision against those drivers killing and injuring innocent travellers; and

(c) whether Government have proposed to make compulsory insurance provision for all motor drivers and bus passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) About 82% of road accidents are attributed to fault of drivers of motor vehicles.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.